

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00
ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 SS-15 HEW-04 DODE-00
AID-05 AGRE-00 L-03 /112 W
-----078966 111935Z /43

R 110505Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7335
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USUN NEW YORK 734

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MANILA FOR USADB; PARIS FOR DEA

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR, UN, AF
SUBJECT: EXTENSIVE DESTRUCTION OF OPIUM POPPIES IN THE UPPER
AND CENTRAL HELMAND REGIONS

1. ON APRIL 6, VISITING UNDND DEPUTY DIRECTOR ANDRE SAENGER AND
U.N. NARCOTICS ADVISOR CHRISTIAN MAGNUSSEN INFORMED EMBASSY
OFFICERS THAT THEY HAD RECENTLY INSPECTED THE RESULTS OF EX-
TENSIVE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) DESTRUCTION OPERATIONS
AGAINST OPIUM POPPIES IN THE UPPER AND CENTRAL HELMAND REGIONS.
THE UN PARTY

IDENTIFIED AND PHOTOGRAPHED RECENTLY PLOWED-UNDER
CROPS OF POPPIES. THEY ESTIMATED THAT AT LEAST ONE-THIRD OF
THE UPPER HELMAND CROP HAS BEEN DESTROYED ALREADY. AT LASHGAR
GAH, A WEALTHY LANDOWNER LOST THIRTY THOUSAND SQUARE METERS
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OF POPPIES -- AND WAS THROWN IN JAIL, FOR A BRIEF TIME, AS
AN OBJECT LESSON.

2. THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES USUALLY REQUIRE THE FARMERS TO DESTROY
THE CROPS WITH THEIR OWN TRACTORS, IF THEY HAVE THEM. MAGNUSSEN
OFFERS TO FINANCE THE RENTING OF TRACTORS AND PLOWS WITH UN
FUNDS WHEREVER ELSE THEY ARE NEEDED.

3. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF A FEW SMALL PLOTS IN THE CENTRAL HELMAND LAST YEAR, THIS IS THE FIRST MAJOR GOA OPERATION AGAINST POPPY GROWERS. IT IS EASIER FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO CONTROL OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THE EXPOSED HELMAND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS THAN IT IS TO MOVE INTO THE TOUGH TRIBAL DISTRICTS WHICH BACK UP AGAINST THE DURAND LINE FRONTIER WITH PAKISTAN. FURTHERMORE, THE FINANCIAL STAKES IN THE CENTRAL HELMAND (I.E., THE LARGE USAID DRAINAGE PROJECT, WHICH IS COVERED BY AN ANTI-OPIUM AGREEMENT), ARE HIGHER.
ELIOT

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, CROP DESTRUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780471/aaaacihd.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: SNAR, AF, UN
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